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TURKEY.

Sanitary report from Constantinople.

[Report No. 217.]

Return of the pilgrims to their homes.

CONSTANTINOPLE, May 12, 1899.

SIR: The most important sanitary question at this moment is the pilgrimage in the Hedjaz and the return of the pilgrims to their homes. I have already given a description of the lazaretto of Camaran, as well as that of Tor, and have showed how far the latter is from presenting the sanitary conditions required by hygiene and comfort. There are already about 7,800 pilgrims that have started from Djiddah and arrived at Tor, where they have already landed and are undergoing their quarantine. Dr. Cozzonis, the inspector-general of the Ottoman sanitary service, who had proceeded to Djiddah in order to overlook the execution of the sanitary steps for the prevention of the spread of the epidemic, is on his way back, and has telegraphed from the lazaretto of El Tor, where he has to undergo his ten days' quarantine, that everything is going on satisfactorily, that food is abundant as well as water. He states that there are 40 patients suffering from ordinary chronic diseases.

Disbanded soldiers returning home.

There are at the same time some disbanded soldiers in the Hedjaz, who have to return home and who are to be submitted to the same quarantine treatment. His Majesty the Sultan expressed the wish that said disbanded soldiers should undergo their quarantine in another lazaretto near to that of El Tor. Such a lazaretto not existing, one must be built on purpose. The International Sanitary Commission has already answered that, according to the decisions of the sanitary conference of Venice, said soldiers coming back from the Hedjaz can only undergo their quarantine at El Tor, and that it is to be hoped that the disbanding of the soldiers will not hereafter coincide with the return of the pilgrims.

Plague cases at the lazaretto of Camaran.

It is to be hoped that among the pilgrims who undergo their quarantine at El Tor before passing the Suez Canal, no one will present symptoms of bubonic plague. We must not forget that very often light cases of said disease can exist without being observed. An example of the latter fact is what occurred on board the steamship *Mirzapore*. The same fact has been observed in the lazaretto of Camaran. I have already reported by wire, as soon as it was announced, the manifestation of plague in said lazaretto. I am now able to give the details of said manifestation, quoting them from the very interesting report of the sanitary inspector at Camaran, Dr. Creudiropoulos.

The steamship *Mirzapore* arrived at Camaran from Chittagong on March 12, carrying 759 pilgrims. On her arrival the captain declared that during the voyage 6 pilgrims died. Among those, 2 died from bronchitis, 1 from fever, the fourth from dysentery, the fifth from